United Nations E/ESCAP/70/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2014

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Bangkok, 19-23 May 2014
Item 3(g) of the provisional agenda*
Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: social development

Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

Summary

The Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was convened by ESCAP in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013. The Conference was comprised of a senior officials segment, which was held from 16 to 18 September 2013, and a ministerial segment, which was held on 19 and 20 September 2013. More than 450 representatives of Governments, civil society and the United Nations system were present at the Conference, including those from 46 members and associate members of the Commission. Attendance was the highest ever recorded in the 50-year history of the Asian and Pacific Population Conference, reflecting the priority accorded by the members of the Commission to issues concerning population and development.

Convened in pursuance of ESCAP resolution 68/6 on Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and General Assembly resolution 65/234 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, the Conference had the following objectives:

(a) To review population and development trends in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To review progress in the regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(c) To serve as the intergovernmental platform for considering and adopting the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, which would also serve as the regional input for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

The Conference adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, with 38 States in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

ESCAP members and associate members identified — through the Ministerial Declaration — priority actions to support further implementation in the region of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including those pertaining to: poverty eradication and employment; health; sexual and reproductive health, services and rights; education; gender equality and women's empowerment; adolescents and young people; ageing; international migration; urbanization and internal migration; population and sustainable development; and data and statistics. They also outlined modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global levels and decided, amongst other things, to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting at the midpoint of the decade (2018) leading up to the seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

In accordance with paragraph 218(h) of the Ministerial Declaration, the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference is submitted to the Commission for its consideration and endorsement.

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1.

Please recycle

Contents

Page

I. Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.....2

II. Proceedings.....28

A. Review of the progress and remaining challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific and proposed thematic priorities for the development agenda beyond 2015 28

B. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.....31

C. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.....31

D. Review of forward-looking policies to address challenges in population and development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific.....31

E. Other matters.....36

F. Adoption of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, including the Asia-Pacific regional input for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 37

G. Adoption of the report of the Conference 37

H. Closing of the Conference.....37

III. Organization 37

A. Objectives.....37

B. Attendance 38

C. Senior officials segment.....39

D. Ministerial segment.....40

E. Special events.....41

Annexes

I. List of documents 42

II. Record of voting 43

III. Statements made in explanation of vote and reservations expressed.....44

I. Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

I. Preamble

1. *We, the Ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, assembled at the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013,*

2. *Recalling* the Programme of Action[1] adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, and its annexes, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] adopted in 1999 and the recommendations arising from their subsequent 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews,

3. *Also recalling* the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[3] and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews,

4. *Further recalling* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[4] adopted in 1995,

5. *Further recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session,[5]

6. *Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] in which the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives reaffirmed the Rio principles including common but differentiated responsibilities, and committed to promoting a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities,

7. *Reaffirming* the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[7] and the Vienna Declaration and its Programme of Action[8] as well as other international instruments relating to all human rights, including the right to development and international law, and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status,

8. *Expressing* grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity,

9. *Further recalling* Commission resolution 74 (XXIII) on regional cooperation in the field of population, by which the Asian Population Conference was established as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years, for consideration of all aspects of population questions and their impact on social and economic development,

---

1 *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

2 General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

3 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication. Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4 General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

5 General Assembly resolution 65/1.

6 General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

7 General Assembly resolution 217 A.

8 A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

10. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/234, in which the Assembly decided to convene a special session during its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

11. *Also recalling* Commission resolution 68/6, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok in 2013 with a view to utilizing the Conference as an intergovernmental platform for the Asia-Pacific preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014,

12. *Further recalling* the commitment to improve maternal health by 2015, and to achieve universal access to reproductive health, as set out in the targets under Millennium Development Goal 5,

13. *Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration[9] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[10] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, and the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, held in December 2012,

14. *Also recalling* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[11] in which Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments declared their commitment to ending the epidemic with renewed political will and strong, accountable leadership,

15. *Further recalling* Commission resolutions 66/10 and 67/9, on achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific and on a regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, respectively,

16. *Recalling* the outcomes of all relevant United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, as well as the previous outcomes and declarations of the Asian and Pacific Population Conferences,

17. *Also recalling* the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council pertaining to sexual violence, such as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent relevant resolutions on women, peace and security,

18. *Recalling* the Moana Declaration: Outcome Statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for Population and Development, adopted on 15 August 2013, in which the Pacific parliamentarians committed to promote a rights-based approach and good governance in advancing the International Conference on Population and Development agenda for all peoples of the Pacific region, taking into account the unique circumstances and needs of the Pacific peoples,

---

[9] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[10] Ibid., chap. II.

[11] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

19. *Welcoming* the overall success of population programmes implemented by members and associate members of the Commission since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in the areas of increased access to sexual and reproductive health services and reduced maternal and child mortality,

20. *Recognizing* that the international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the impact of the financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security and safety, as well as the increasing challenges posed by natural disasters, conflicts, complex emergencies, climate change and the loss of biodiversity, all of which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains,

21. *Noting* the specific development challenges and barriers faced by fragile and conflict-affected States in shaping their development agendas, including those related to population and development,

22. *Recognizing* that the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and that population dynamics are all-important for development,

23. *Further recognizing* that the freedom and ability to make informed and responsible decisions empower individuals to fulfil their potential and participate fully in economies and societies,

24. *Noting* that despite the considerable progress made in the region, challenges from multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, disempowerment and discrimination still need to be addressed, through commitment to equality before the law and non-discrimination for all persons, without distinction of any kind, in the exercise of their social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, including the right to gainful employment, residence and access to services, as well as the need to promulgate or enforce laws that punish any kind of discrimination, violence or hate crimes, and to take active steps to protect people in the region from discrimination, stigma, and violence,

25. *Recognizing* the importance of considering the impact, in terms of potential marginalization of the status of individuals in society and on public health, of laws and practices on consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships,

26. *Recognizing* the critical role of policymakers, parliamentarians, community leaders and media in fostering an enabling environment for the full and equal enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights,

27. *Further recognizing* that professional groups such as health-care providers, members of the judiciary, teachers, social workers, and law enforcement personnel need the necessary training to enhance their understanding of human rights-based, gender-sensitive and responsive, non-discriminatory approaches to all individuals, without distinction of any kind,

28. *Recognizing* that poverty is a major common denominator in health-related issues and is responsible for the serious worsening of common health

indicators, deterioration of living standards, shortening of average life expectancy and persistence of, and, in some cases, the increase in preventable disease and death, particularly among children,

29. *Noting* with concern that, despite some progress made in public health in the last decade, for millions of people throughout the world the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, vaccines and commodities, equipment and other supplies and to comprehensive primary health-care services, health promotion and disease prevention, remains a distant goal and that, in many cases, especially for those living in poverty and populations in vulnerable or marginalized situations, the attainment of this goal is becoming increasingly remote,

30. *Reaffirming* that good public health is better achieved through a combination of good public health policies, including multisectoral policies that stress better nutrition, safe drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and sustainable urbanization and that combat major risk factors effectively,

31. *Also reaffirming* our commitments regarding the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger and acknowledging that food security, safety and nutrition have become pressing global challenges, and recalling Millennium Development Goal 1,

32. *Acknowledging* the negative impact of nutritional insufficiency on the health of infants, children and their mothers,

33. *Recognizing* the need to implement policies and programmes on adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health and child health that fully respect all internationally recognized human rights, and further recognizing the need for countries to learn from each other on approaches towards achieving universal health care, including universal health coverage, and the use and mutually agreed sharing of all relevant technologies and know-how, including information and communications technology,

34. *Reaffirming* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental aspects constitute a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

35. *Acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for many to healthy nutrition, quality education, safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, productive employment, decent shelter and acceptable standards of health and living, and that addressing inequalities will continue to be a challenge in the region,

36. *Further acknowledging* that increased inequalities in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in lack of access for couples and individuals to safe, acceptable, affordable, effective and voluntary forms of modern contraception and that demands for these services will continue to grow over the next several decades, especially for those who face greater barriers in accessing such services,

37. *Also acknowledging* the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancers, including reproductive cancers, and noting the linkages between

non-communicable diseases, mental disorders and some communicable diseases, such as HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the effect of morbidity in reducing quality of life,

38. *Recognizing* the significant progress that has been made in the region in preventing and treating HIV and AIDS, and noting the need to continue and accelerate efforts to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care and to address the continuing barriers faced by key affected populations at higher risk of HIV infection in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,

39. *Further acknowledging* the need for analysis of population data to inform policy formulation, and the need to develop the capacity of relevant national institutions and mechanisms in countries in the region to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable population data, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant categories, and accessible to all, as needed to monitor the achievements of the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

40. *Emphasizing* that priority actions are required to harness the benefits and address challenges relating to the impact of population dynamics on poverty and sustainable development, taking into account the needs and human rights of people living in the most vulnerable situations, keeping in mind that universal reproductive health-care services, commodities and supplies, as well as information, education, skill development, national capacity-building for population and development and transfer of appropriate technology and know-how, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, to developing countries are essential for achieving the objectives and goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014,

41. *Acknowledging* the importance and effectiveness of utilizing and promoting science, technology and innovation and with the experience of past learning for achieving progress in the field of population and development,

42. *Affirming* that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registrations, are crucial for inclusive and sustainable development in the region,

43. *Recognizing* that discrimination based on gender is inextricably linked to other factors, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, disability, age, class, caste, or all other status, and that these multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination can compound women's and girls' experience of injustice, social marginalization and inequality,

44. *Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the Asian and Pacific region and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable and can constitute a violation of their human rights, as well as of international humanitarian law and international criminal law,

45. *Recognizing* that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women

and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

46. *Recognizing* that implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires the establishment of common ground with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds,

47. *Also recognizing* that a number of forms of violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle derive from harmful cultural practices, in particular the effects of certain traditional or customary practices, and that all acts of violence against women and girls linked to race, ethnicity, age, sex, language or religion perpetuate the lower status accorded to women and girls in the family, the workplace, the community and society,

48. *Further recognizing* the importance of empowering all women through education and training in Government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

49. *Stressing* the need for States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, thereby creating imbalances in the sex ratio at birth that have negative social and economic impacts on society,

50. *Noting with concern* that there are still many challenges to be addressed to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, have the right to equitable access to economic and social opportunities and political participation and all other aspects of life,

51. *Recognizing* that the region is undergoing a historically unique transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of fertility and mortality, known as the demographic transition, which has strong effects on the age structure of populations, and cognizant of the fact that countries are at different stages of this transition, with some countries still experiencing higher levels of fertility and mortality, and others experiencing fertility that is below the replacement level,

52. *Mindful* of the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asian and Pacific region, which is home to the largest segment of older persons in the world, the majority of whom live in developing countries,

53. *Recognizing* that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing society in order to respond to the social, economic and political implications of population ageing,

54. *Further recognizing* that older persons make vital contributions to the economy and society and that they often face challenges, including age discrimination, abuse and violence, limited access to health-care services, social protection measures and labour markets,

55. *Recognizing* that the change of family structures in the Asian and Pacific region is resulting in an increased number of older adults living alone,

56. *Also recognizing* the vulnerability of older persons, especially women, and the particular risks of poverty, discrimination and violence they face, and the need to promote and protect their human rights and address their specific needs,

57. *Acknowledging* that, at the same time, more than 60 per cent of the world's youth live in the Asian and Pacific region and that they require policies and strategies to promote and protect all their human rights, including the right to development, and address their specific needs, including in reproductive and sexual health,

58. *Recognizing* that the ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfil their potential will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations, and stressing the need for further efforts to improve the economic conditions of youth and to promote their interests, including the full enjoyment of their human rights and opportunities, among other things, by supporting young people in developing their potential and talents and tackling obstacles facing youth,

59. *Noting* that evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and life skills, which are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, are essential for adolescents and young people to be able to make responsible and informed decisions and exercise their right to control all aspects of their sexuality, protect themselves from unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to plan their lives, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents, as well as of teachers and peer educators, to support them in doing so,

60. *Recognizing* the need for States to adopt a life course approach in building and strengthening social protection systems that acknowledge differing needs at different stages of life,

61. *Noting* that the number of urban dwellers in developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region is growing significantly and that future population growth will be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries,

62. *Also noting* that internal migratory flows in Asia and the Pacific will continue to have a significant impact on the distribution and concentration of populations in cities and large urban agglomerations, and recognizing the growing numbers of urban poor who often have no other option but to live in slums,

63. *Recognizing* that a significant portion of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that rural communities play an important role in the economic development of many countries,

64. *Acknowledging* the link between international migration and development in the Asian and Pacific region, and the need to address both the opportunities and challenges that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, to migrants, and to the global community,

65. *Recognizing* the importance of preventing and eliminating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, while acknowledging the responsibility of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children,

66. *Concerned* that the Asian and Pacific region is the most disaster-prone region of the world, noting the severe impacts of disasters on women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, and recognizing the need to build the resilience of populations in the region, including vulnerable groups in mitigation and adaptation strategies, to reduce vulnerability to disasters,

67. *Noting with appreciation* the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[12] which offers a valuable contribution to identifying the progress and gaps in its implementation in Asia and the Pacific and areas for future action,

68. *Recognizing* the need for greater resource flow and assistance for the Asia-Pacific region, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to effectively attain the goals, objectives and actions set out by the International Conference on Population and Development,

69. *Recommend* the following set of policy directions and priority actions in the Asian and Pacific region to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, as well as their follow-up beyond 2014, and inclusion in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

II. Policy directions

70. Reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and by doing so, thereby commit to address remaining implementation gaps and to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities in the nexus between population and sustainable development;

71. Reaffirm also the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or the proposals contained in the present Declaration, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

72. Reaffirm further that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stress that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of all States regardless of their cultural, political or economic systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

73. Commit to promoting development, peace, prosperity and happiness through the incorporation of the agenda of the International Conference on

[12] E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/1.

Population and Development, as appropriate, in national development plans and their successful implementation, taking into account the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 to improve the quality of life of the people in the Asian and Pacific region;

74. Reaffirm that education is closely linked with socioeconomic development and demographic change, and hence a key factor in sustainable development and at the same time a component of well-being through its links with economic, social, cultural and demographic factors;

75. Accord high priority to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as an integral part of national health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures;

76. Recognize that sexual and reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, and the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

77. Note the importance of human security, which focuses on individuals, including youth, women and girls, as well as older persons, by protecting and empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty, including by building their resilience to any potential changes in their circumstances and environment, and fulfil their potential;

78. Resolve to strengthen access for all to the primary health-care system through appropriate public spending on health care as determined by national contexts, with appropriate allocation on primary health care, as this is necessary in attaining the goal of universal health coverage, which is not just about health financing but requires strong health systems to provide a range of quality, affordable services to address diversified health needs, including sexual and reproductive health needs;

79. Resolve to promote the right of women and girls to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to achieve gender equality, and reaffirm further that expanding access to sexual and reproductive health information and education and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services is essential for achieving the goals enshrined in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews;

80. Resolve to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls, including their sexual and reproductive rights, without which the ability to exercise other rights is significantly constrained, and to create an enabling environment, including national rules and regulations, enactment of laws, as appropriate, for the exercise of those rights and the right to access to justice, as

well as the right to equal and full participation in parliamentary and policymaking processes;

81. Resolve to take all possible preventive and remedial measures, by all relevant stakeholders at all levels, to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including by empowering women and girls and protecting them against all forms of violence, informing them of their human rights, disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information and support, including remedial, legal, health and other support and services, as may be necessary, is available to all women and girls who have been subjected to violence, at all levels of the social service system and justice system, and raising public awareness of women's and girls' rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

82. Recommit to the importance of addressing the social determinants and structural and underlying causes of inequality at the national and international levels in order to effectively reduce them;

83. Ensure that a people-centred approach is at the core of sustainable development policies and programmes to promote social integration and foster social harmony and social cohesion;

84. Work to reduce vulnerability and eliminate discrimination based on sex, gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status;

85. Adopt a life course approach in order to address the needs and fulfil the human rights, including the right to development, of young people with a focus on adolescents, as well as to respond to and prepare for the process of population ageing;

86. Develop evidence-based policies and ensure accountability in meeting commitments, including through the implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and community-based monitoring, in accordance with national laws and regulations, as appropriate;

87. Increase regional and international cooperation and global partnerships in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and implement its Programme of Action and the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as their follow-up beyond 2014;

88. Reaffirm the important role of partnerships among key stakeholders, including Governments, community-based organizations, civil society, the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, in implementing the Programme of Action and the key actions as well as their follow-up beyond 2014;

III. Priority actions

A. Poverty eradication and employment

89. Accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels;

90. Commit to address poverty and hunger as matters of urgency, reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

91. Create enabling environments at all levels for poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration and protection;

92. Enhance food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations;

93. Revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors and take the necessary actions to better address poverty and the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples, people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care and social services, education and training, employment knowledge, and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated waste water, water harvesting and storage;

94. Empower rural women and men as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security, safety and nutrition;

95. Focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality, as a sharp increase in agricultural productivity could accomplish several things simultaneously, including: reducing hunger; reducing child mortality through improved nutrition; reducing maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and increasing household incomes and economic growth;

96. Adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies for job creation that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development;

97. Enhance employment and income opportunities for all, especially for women and men living in poverty and, in this regard, support national efforts in the Asian and Pacific region to provide the poor in both rural and urban areas with new job opportunities, including support to small and medium-sized enterprises, including by promoting equal skills development and employment opportunities, and reducing wage gaps between women and men;

98. To promote policies and programmes aimed at encouraging the active participation of women in the labour force;

99. Address the challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people with access to decent and productive work, as over the coming decades, decent jobs will need to be created to be able to ensure sustainable and inclusive development and to reduce poverty;

100. Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among youth;

101. Increase access to decent and productive employment and promote entrepreneurship as a fundamental component of pro-poor growth and the efforts to address poverty and hunger;

102. Widely apply successful programmes, especially employment-intensive initiatives, small and medium-sized enterprise promotion, employment guarantee schemes and conditional cash transfers, as well as vocational and technical training and entrepreneurial skills development, especially for unemployed youth to cover larger parts of the population, especially women and people living in rural areas;

103. Address the special needs of persons with disabilities in national population policies and programmes;

B. Health

104. Adopt appropriate policies and programmes to achieve universal health coverage;

105. Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability, affordability, quality and comprehensiveness of health-care services and facilities through well-functioning and responsive public health services for all people, in particular for the poorest and marginalized segments of the population in accordance with national commitments to provide access to basic health care for all, as well as the need to increase the healthy lifespan and improve the quality of life of all people, and to reduce disparities in health status, morbidity, mortality and life expectancy among and within countries in the region;

106. Promote science and the exchange of knowledge in addressing communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases with a view to increase life expectancy, improve the quality of life and reduce morbidity and mortality;

107. Strengthen national health systems and implement multisectoral national policies for the provision of equitable universal health coverage, and promote quality and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for communicable, non-communicable and emerging diseases;

108. Strengthen health systems so that they can deliver equitable health outcomes on the basis of a comprehensive approach by focusing appropriate attention on, among other things, increasing health financing, training and effective deployment of human resources for health, strengthening procurement and distribution of medicines and vaccines, infrastructure, information systems, service delivery, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, universal access and political will in leadership and governance;

C. Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights

109. Accord priority to policies and programmes to achieve universal access to comprehensive and integrated quality sexual and reproductive health services for all women, men and young people in order to, among other things, reduce the unmet need for family planning with special attention on ensuring access for adolescents and unmarried persons, as well as to eliminate maternal, newborn and child mortality, decrease morbidity and to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

110. Provide a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health information and other services that includes adequate counselling, information and education, access to a full range of acceptable, affordable, safe, effective and high-quality modern contraceptives of choice, comprehensive maternity care, including pre- and postnatal care, access to safe abortion under the criteria

permitted by law, post-abortion care, safe delivery services, prevention and treatment of infertility, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers and other communicable and non-communicable diseases, employing a rights-based approach, paying particular attention to women, newborns, adolescents, youth, and hard-to-reach and underserved groups;

111. Ensure that national laws and policies respect and protect reproductive rights and enable all individuals without distinction of any kind, to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds;

112. Prohibit practices that violate the reproductive health and rights of women and adolescent girls, such as spousal or parental consent requirements to receive health services, including: (i) sexual and reproductive health services; (ii) denial of access to sexual and reproductive health services; (iii) violence in health-care settings, including sexual harassment, humiliation and forced medical procedures or those conducted without informed consent, and which may be irreversible, such as forced hysterectomy, forced Caesarean section, forced sterilization and forced abortion and forced use of contraceptives, as well as mandatory HIV testing; (iv) early and forced marriage; (v) female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices; or (vi) discrimination in education and employment due to pregnancy and motherhood;

113. Prioritize the provision of free education for girls at all levels, access to sexual and reproductive health information services and efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage;

114. Fully engage the participation and involvement of men in ensuring the promotion and protection of their own, and their partners' reproductive health and rights;

115. Implement evidence-based policies, including in low- and high-fertility countries, that are based on the rights of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the means to do so, taking into account that the need for such policies is to be based on evidence and best practices;

116. Ensure access to contraceptive services for all couples and individuals, with comprehensive information about, and voluntary access to and choice of, the widest possible range of safe, effective, high-quality, affordable, acceptable and modern methods of contraception, so that all couples and individuals are able to voluntarily exercise free, responsible and informed choice;

117. Strengthen partnerships in communities between professional bodies, civil society, community-based organizations, including village health and sanitation committees, grass-roots democratic institutions, municipal bodies, not-for-profit entities and the private sector, and increase involvement of elected government officials, in order to improve the delivery of sexual and reproductive health information and services;

118. Eliminate preventable maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity through increasing the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, particularly in developing countries, the use of prenatal and postnatal care, access to family planning services and information, access to emergency obstetric and newborn care, and management of complications arising from unsafe abortion and comprehensive abortion care where it is not against the law, as well as training and equipping health service providers and

take other measures to ensure that abortion is safe and accessible in order to safeguard the lives of women and girls;

119. Significantly scale up efforts to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, free of discrimination and bearing in mind gender perspectives, and the goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015, in particular by integrating HIV and AIDS interventions into programmes for primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, and maternal, neonatal and child health, including by strengthening efforts to eliminate the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child, by preventing and treating other sexually transmitted infections, expanding access to essential commodities, including all required medicines for treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS, and to male and female condoms, through the adoption of measures to reduce costs and improve availability;

120. Address the legal and policy barriers that impede access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, particularly among key affected populations, including sex workers, persons who inject drugs and men who have sex with men, transgender and mobile populations;

121. Strengthen existing health services and health systems to increase the capacity of prevention, early detection, treatment and palliation of cancers of the male and female reproductive systems, especially prostate, breast and cervical cancers;

122. Promote evidence-based innovative communication technologies and approaches to increase access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including for young people, the poor and the most vulnerable;

123. Ensure timely, accessible and affordable essential reproductive health commodities, within the context of comprehensive, safe, acceptable, affordable and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services;

124. Integrate responses to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health services and programmes, as part of a broader, multisectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal, newborn and child, adolescent and youth health, family planning and HIV-related services, and ensure that all victims and survivors of violence have immediate access to critical services, including emergency contraception and safe abortion;

125. Support the active engagement of community and religious leaders in the promotion of reproductive health and rights;

126. Ensure that the human rights of women and girls, including their reproductive health and rights, receive increased attention in humanitarian assistance and post-crisis recovery by providing access to timely, safe, high-quality, affordable and acceptable information and services on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, in particular for women and girls in accordance with the World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews;

D. Education

127. Ensure the right of everyone to education and emphasize that education should be directed towards the full development of the human person and his or her dignity and should strengthen respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and implement commitments made at the international level that emphasize inclusive high-quality learning, including early childhood education, and universal access to complete, free and compulsory high-quality primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and skills training, and lifelong learning, without any form of discrimination that is necessary to successfully transition from school into the labour force, as well as equal access to education and successful schooling for all people living with HIV and AIDS and children from indigenous communities and in orphanages and institutions;

128. Ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, including for married adolescents and young mothers, especially educational opportunities, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education and promoting the empowerment of girls through improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools, physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities and childcare, and increasing financial incentives for women and their families where necessary;

E. Gender equality and women's empowerment

129. Increase and track the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls, including victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective and gender-sensitive budgeting in resource allocation, and ensuring the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific targeted activities to ensure gender equality and the advancement of women and girls at the local, national, regional and international levels within comprehensive multisectoral national plans for gender equality, as well as through enhanced and increased international cooperation;

130. Mainstream gender dimensions into strategies, plans and programmes in all socioeconomic sectors and develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes to prohibit and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

131. Review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that have a discriminatory impact on individuals, without distinction of any kind, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

132. Review, and where appropriate, repeal laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions, where applicable, as well as end their imprisonment for such acts, bearing in mind that in no circumstances should abortion be considered as a family planning method;

133. Strengthen legal frameworks and develop comprehensive and multisectoral national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and resource allocation aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including by achieving gender equality and

the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

134. Ensure that all victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, rape and incest, including indigenous people and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, have immediate access to critical services, including: 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services; police protection; safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; referrals; and longer-term support;

135. Fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in promoting gender equality and preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, and develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; and in this context address and eliminate intimate partner violence and expand and ensure the availability and access to services to prevent, respond to and protect survivors of such violence and their children;

136. Design, adopt and implement evidence-based and effective policies and programmes focusing on the empowerment of female-headed households through providing them with adequate socioeconomic support and health services;

137. Focus employment policies to enable parents to play an active role in the development of their children and balance the demands of these responsibilities with those of caring for older adults in the family;

138. Establish and implement legal and institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, build capacity of doctors, midwives, law enforcement agencies and judges, and increase public awareness on the value of the girl child including in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child, child and forced marriage and the root causes of son preference, which reinforce traditional gender roles impeding the advancement of women and girls and contribute to harmful, unethical and illegal practices, such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, which result in an imbalance in the sex ratio at birth and a distorted population composition;

139. Undertake, where appropriate, legislative, administrative, financial and other measures to give women full and equal access to economic resources, particularly women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, assets, investments, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies, among other things, by means of international cooperation; prioritize and intensify initiatives towards the economic empowerment of women at the grass-roots level, including through entrepreneurship education and business incubators, as ways of uplifting their status and increasing choice and opportunities;

140. Take all necessary legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities as they are especially vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, discrimination, violence and abuse, including in the workplace, educational institutions, the home and other settings;

141. Encourage and empower women's full and effective leadership at all levels in order to maximize their contribution to policymaking;

142. Ensure the implementation of programmes that increase women's participation in political processes and other leadership activities, including the removal of discriminatory hiring practices, increasing peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and promoting civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

143. Improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and relevant indicators to inform policies, and ensure the collection and dissemination of internationally comparable gender statistics;

F. Adolescents and young people

144. Ensure that adolescents and young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to youth-friendly sustainable health and social services without discrimination and judgement, including marginal groups, such as youth with disabilities, HIV and AIDS, ethnic minorities and other status;

145. Respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people and give full attention to meeting their sexual and reproductive health, information and education needs, with their full participation and engagement, and respect for their privacy and confidentiality, while acknowledging the roles and responsibilities of their parents, as well as of their teachers and peer educators in supporting them to do so and that in this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services;

146. Design, ensure sufficient resources and implement comprehensive sexuality education programmes that are consistent with evolving capacities and are age appropriate, and provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health, while recognizing the role and responsibilities of parents;

147. Address youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated youth employment policies for inclusive job creation, improved employability, skill development and vocational training to meet specific labour market needs of youth, including young migrants, and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the regional, national and local levels, which foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society;

148. Enable adolescents and young people to participate in decision-making, including planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to develop and strengthen opportunities for young people to be aware of their human rights and responsibilities, promote and enable their social, economic and political participation, and remove obstacles that limit their full contribution to society, and promote and support adolescent and youth associations, volunteer groups and entrepreneurship;

G. Ageing

149. Adopt policies and national action plans to prepare for and respond to population ageing throughout the life course;

150. Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in national legal and policy frameworks;

151. Strengthen data collection and analysis on older persons to increase the knowledge base on ageing to develop evidence-based national policies on ageing;

152. Establish and/or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the human rights of older persons, develop sustainable social protection and health policies, consider increasing domestic and international resources to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[13] and to coordinate and track resource allocations for ageing;

153. Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including older persons, to facilitate social and economic participation of older persons, remove barriers that limit their full contribution to society and to promote an enabling environment for healthy and active ageing as set out in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

154. Ensure that gender differentials in longevity and the well-being of older persons are taken into account in national ageing responses, and establish or strengthen programmes, policies and services that address the specific health and care needs of older persons, with a particular focus on older women;

155. Assess the well-being and family situation of older persons and provide necessary support for those who live alone and/or away from their families and consider measures to encourage the role of families and communities in respecting and supporting older adults;

156. Develop or strengthen inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation, including the provision of universal pensions and the strengthening of solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships, as well as bonds within families to ensure the care, protection, economic security and empowerment of older persons;

157. Promote the role of older workers as transmitters of knowledge and experience to younger workers;

158. Strengthen health and social protection systems to prepare for and respond to the needs of older persons by adopting a life course approach and by providing an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care, and palliative care;

159. Share experiences and implement good practices on ageing, especially with regard to social safety nets, such as pensions, health and long-term care insurance, and social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons, as well as community action;

160. Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for care of older persons, acknowledging the linkages between ageing and disability, emphasizing home

[13] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

and community-based care and improving the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

161. Implement and monitor laws and regulations on the basis of gender equity and equality to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

162. Create and promote enabling environments to support active participation of all persons, especially older persons and persons with disabilities, including through increased investment in universal design, to ensure access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication;

163. Support the formation of organizations of, and for, older persons that provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons;

H. International migration

164. Effectively promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[7] and their applicable international human rights obligations in accordance with national laws and policies and where appropriate, and consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;[14]

165. Address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability and risks;

166. Acknowledge the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination and consider the multidimensional and beneficial aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;

167. Examine the root causes of undocumented migration, including by promoting cooperation, in accordance with relevant international obligations and commitments at all levels so as to foster orderly, regular and safe processes of migration;

168. Examine the causes of emigration to minimize the adverse effects of the migration of highly skilled persons on the development efforts of developing countries;

169. Promote dialogue and establish cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to provide social protection to migrants, especially health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, employment services, job training, social insurance, social assistance and remittances, to promote social

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

inclusion and also to address the implications of deportation of migrants, taking into account the interests of countries of destination and origin;

170. Provide access to relevant documentation for foreign residents to facilitate their access to social and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services;

171. Adopt and implement legislation and policies that ensure equal treatment of migrant workers with national workers, where appropriate, in employment and working conditions, while stressing that such migrants should not be punished for submitting complaints and by promptly investigating all alleged crimes against them;

172. Incorporate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes on international migration in order to reinforce the positive effects that migration can have for the empowerment of women and the contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, coercion, discrimination, trafficking in persons and other types of exploitation and abuse of women and girls, especially of domestic workers, who are predominantly women;

173. Ensure that migration is safe and orderly and combat trafficking in persons, especially women, boys and girls, while ensuring access by victims and survivors of trafficking to counselling, rehabilitation services and alternative economic opportunities;

174. Consider, where appropriate, enacting national legislation and introducing further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation and sexual violence;

175. Strengthen international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and, where appropriate, consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[15] and implementing them as appropriate;

176. Strengthen policies to ensure that international migration for the purpose of marriage does not lead to situations of exploitation or abuse, and to assist with the social integration of marriage migrants and their children;

177. Ensure access to civil, economic, social and cultural rights for all children affected by migration, whether as migrants or those staying behind, regardless of their parents' migration status; and include children affected by migration in social protection systems, policies and programmes;

178. Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures and specific policies to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation, violence or sexual abuse;

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

179. Improve national data collection and pursue regional cooperation to harmonize the collection and analysis of migration data and statistics for evidence-informed policymaking, including by taking advantage of advances in methodologies and technologies for data collection and analysis, and regular collaboration in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of migration and other relevant data;

I. Urbanization and internal migration

180. Consider population and migration trends and projections, including data on the number and situation of internal migrants, in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating regional, national, community, rural and urban development strategies and policies, and seize opportunities and address challenges associated with demographic change, including migration;

181. Promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of, and promote equal opportunities for, internal migrants to combat all forms of discrimination against them, including the sexual violence and exploitation that women and girls face as rural to urban migrants, to provide them with access to education, health care and social services, to foster social integration, especially for marginalized migrants, and to ensure their safety and security;

182. Harness the benefits of persons moving to urban areas and seize the advantages of higher population density, notably higher energy efficiency in transport and housing, as well as cheaper provision of basic services, including health and infrastructure development, while at the same time working to mitigate the adverse impacts of the rapid concentration of populations in cities of metropolitan areas and ensuring that urbanization is a planned, sustainable and equitable process;

183. Reduce urban poverty, acknowledging that many urban dwellers work in the informal sector of the economy, and promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

184. Recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes the upgrading of slums and regeneration of urban areas;

185. Commit to improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing, water and sanitation and mobility;

186. Enhance the capacity of Governments in sustainable urban planning and promote, where relevant, the decentralization of decision-making in order to better address local needs;

187. Encourage the exchange of experiences and implement best practices for the successful management of population-related challenges in megacities (cities of 10 million or more residents), including the provision of basic services, as well as internal migration;

188. Promote development that would encourage linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence including through strategies that are aimed at eradicating

poverty by integrating a gender perspective and promoting interactions between cities and rural localities;

189. Develop measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters in urban areas, and ensure the provision of necessary and prompt assistance to affected populations, especially vulnerable groups, such as persons with disability, migrants and older adults;

J. Population and sustainable development

190. Promote sustainable development by proactively addressing population dynamics through the systematic consideration of population data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other factors, and the formulation of rural, urban and national development strategies and policies, as well as multisectoral development strategies for infrastructure and services;

191. Recognize the need to increase efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including by increasing diverse methods of achieving sustainable food production and productivity to ensure food security and safety, and using limited natural resources effectively, such as effective use of water through irrigation systems;

192. Promote sustainable development by directing individual choices and opportunities through incentives designed to empower and promote the participation of all sections of populations, which is an important and effective instrument for promoting the transition to sustainable development and green economies;

193. Promote public education, giving special attention to youth, about the need for sustainable production and consumptions patterns, sustainable natural resource use and prevention of environmental degradation;

194. Ensure the collection, availability and use of high-quality data, disaggregated by sex, age, region and urban and rural residence, on the impact of disasters in order to promote effective policymaking for enhanced disaster preparedness and management;

195. Promote participation of the affected sections of the population in the planning and decision-making processes on relevant natural disaster risk reduction strategies;

196. Ensure forecasting of the consequences of climate conditions and climate change, and prioritize addressing the needs of people living in fragile ecosystems in planning and decision-making processes on economic activities that affect the environment, including through such policies as those for promoting employment;

197. Ensure collective efforts to halt global carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, as part of protecting livelihoods and ensuring survival, as well as to support and facilitate adaptation and/or migration with dignity and respect for identity where countries can no longer support the lives of people due to adverse changes in their circumstances and environment resulting from climate change;

K. Data and statistics

198. Strengthen national statistical systems at all levels to produce reliable, disaggregated and internationally comparable statistics on population, social

and economic development in a timely manner to help monitor subnational, national, regional and international development;

199. Support collection and analysis of data at the household level, in cooperation with research and statistical institutions, as appropriate, on issues related to the International Conference on Population and Development in order to design policy interventions;

200. Support the collection and sharing of data, statistics and qualitative information on the quality of life and dignity of older persons, including cases of violation and abuses of their rights, in order to design and implement appropriate, evidence-based policy measures;

201. Improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on, among other things, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants, domestic workers, indigenous peoples and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities in order to effectively protect their rights, and to design and implement policies and programmes to enhance their well-being;

202. Develop national human capital through training, proper recognition and incentives to generate good-quality data and fully exploit the potential of the data for evidence-based management and programming;

203. Use new technologies for data collection and processing to ensure their proper use and cost-effectiveness and sustainability;

204. Ensure timely availability and easy accessibility of data files and statistics for national and international users through the Internet, including the World Wide Web;

IV. Modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global levels

205. Confirm that the present Declaration should provide an effective response to population and development challenges beyond 2014 and link to the development agenda beyond 2015;

206. Designate a national focal point agency to coordinate the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration at the national level;

207. Ensure stronger political commitment and establish or strengthen national, subregional and regional mechanisms to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, and the recommendations of the present Declaration, taking into account, as appropriate, the outcomes of national and regional reviews, including a review in 2018 of the progress achieved at the midpoint towards the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

208. Strengthen the capacity of relevant institutions to ensure effective integration of population issues into development planning, including ensuring effective coordination of all relevant planning bodies and multisectoral approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising

from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration;

209. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation by relevant national authorities of progress towards the continuing implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its related follow-up outcomes, as well as the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, and reflect, as appropriate, the findings in national and regional policies and programmes;

210. Ensure adequate financing to fully implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations contained in the present Declaration in all countries through new and additional resources, with a focus on domestic resource mobilization, resource tracking, public and private financing and ensuring the continuation and fulfilment of official development assistance commitments made by international donors;

211. Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and relevant national institutions and mechanisms to employ holistic approaches to generate, analyse and disseminate reliable population data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other categories as needed, and increase the use of data for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies by relevant national authorities;

212. Conduct an assessment of civil registration and vital statistics systems, including birth and death registration, and develop a national multisectoral improvement plan which includes strengthening the capacities and coordination of relevant institutions;

213. Create effective partnerships and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration at the local, district, national and regional levels, with all relevant stakeholders, including through the involvement of political and opinion leaders, community and religious leaders, school teachers, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for the participation of civil society and community-based organizations and increased space for constructive dialogue at the local, national and regional levels;

214. Strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and engagement with philanthropic foundations and the private sector for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the present Declaration;

215. Empower communities to ensure the accountability of Governments in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration, as well as the accountability of health and social service providers;

216. Promote regional cooperation, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, to accelerate the implementation of the

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews and the recommendations of the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technologies, and encourage the sharing of successful experiences and best practices among developing countries in the area of population and development, including sexual and reproductive health, especially for adolescents;

217. Ensure, in support of national development efforts, an enabling international environment, supportive of universal, non-discriminatory, timely and affordable access to medicines, vaccines, commodities, equipment, technologies and other supplies required for the comprehensive provision of health-care services, to guarantee the basic human rights of women, children, adolescents, older persons and other groups in vulnerable situations;

218. Request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and all other relevant partners:

(a) To accord priority to the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration;

(b) To provide ESCAP members and associate members with support, upon request, in the implementation of the present Declaration at the national and regional levels;

(c) To conduct a regional intergovernmental review meeting of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the present Declaration in 2018, and to submit the outcome of the regional meeting to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session;

(d) To ensure, while fully respecting the principles of national leadership and ownership, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Development Group regional teams, the integration of the outcomes of the Conference, in consultation with United Nations country teams and national Governments, into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, at the country level;

(e) To facilitate regional cooperation, including the sharing of best practices among member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations arising from their subsequent reviews, including the recommendations contained in the present Declaration, including on the use of information and communications technology in population and development-related issues and approaches on the provision of universal health care;

(f) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, through the President of the General Assembly, to the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, as the Asia-Pacific regional input;

(g) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session;

(h) To submit the outcome of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to the Commission at its seventieth session for consideration and endorsement.

II. Proceedings

A. Review of the progress and remaining challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific and proposed thematic priorities for the development agenda beyond 2015

1. The Conference had before it the following documents: (a) "Review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementing, in the Asia-Pacific region, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" (E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/1); and (b) "Consideration of proposed thematic priorities in population and development in the development agenda beyond 2015" (E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/2).

2. Statements were made by the representatives of the following ESCAP members and associate members: Afghanistan; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands;[16] India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America.

3. A statement was made on behalf of 120 civil society organizations concerned with population and development issues.

4. The Conference took note of the findings of a survey on implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[17] in Asia and the Pacific. That survey, conducted by ESCAP in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), had benefited from the responses of 51 Governments, yielding a response rate of 88 per cent and representing 99 per cent of the population of the region.

5. The Conference noted that the findings indicated significant progress made by the region in implementing the Programme of Action in terms of increasing the availability of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, improving maternal health and promoting gender equality.

6. Many delegations affirmed their continuing commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly the principles of a rights-based approach to population issues, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Delegations also noted many of the challenges, and approaches to meeting them, that were specific to the Asian and Pacific region.

---

[16] On behalf of Pacific island States.

[17] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

7. Several delegations reported major achievements in poverty reduction and increases in life expectancy and contraceptive prevalence rates as well as significant reductions in such indicators as infant and child mortality, maternal mortality and unmet need for family planning. Those achievements had been attained through holistic approaches to population and development in which population issues were integrated into national development strategies.

8. Many countries reported on institutional changes that they had introduced and that had contributed to the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action. Several countries had adopted new national population and reproductive health policies and enacted legislation to promote gender equality, as well as increased the political participation of women while combating violence against women and children. Some countries had strengthened the legal protection of domestic workers.

9. Several delegations reported significant progress in reducing poverty levels and improving their scores on the human development index compiled by the United Nations Development Programme. That progress had been achieved by focusing on human resource development through education and training, employment and increased access to health services.

10. Delegations described the measures that their countries had taken to improve the health and well-being of their populations. Reproductive health services were integrated into national health strategies. Several countries were implementing programmes of universal health coverage. In the area of reproductive health, an emphasis had been placed on: (a) maternal health, including increased access to contraception, with a focus on spacing methods; (b) greater training of midwives and other health personnel; and (c) strengthening of emergency obstetric care. Several delegations reported increasing the number of public health clinics in underserved areas in an effort to reach such populations as persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and migrants.

11. The incidence of HIV and AIDS in the region remained a threat that had generally been addressed by reproductive health programmes. Some delegations reported on efforts to halt the spread of HIV through education, prevention, treatment, care and support, and by removing policy barriers that impeded access by key affected populations. The delegation of India reported that the High Court of Delhi had struck down for consenting adults a provision of the Indian Penal Code that criminalized homosexual acts.

12. Some delegations reported on measures to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights to all individuals without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

13. Aside from reproductive health, some delegations reported on efforts to prevent, detect and treat non-communicable diseases and to improve public health through such measures as expanding the provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

14. Several delegations acknowledged, however, that challenges remained. Access to sexual and reproductive health services was uneven and maternal mortality was still high in some countries. Many delegations also noted that, while the unmet need for family planning had remained high in some countries, other countries had experienced declining populations, very low fertility and rapidly changing age structures.

15. Several delegations expressed the need for increased social protection, especially for women and vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples and migrants. Several delegations reported on successful initiatives to expand universal access to health and education, as well as successful interventions targeting vulnerable groups.

16. The importance of strengthening educational systems was stressed by many delegations. Education was identified by some member States as a means of reducing poverty and preparing youth for employment. Several delegations noted achieving, or progressing towards, universal education with gender equity, particularly at the primary level. Policies and practices supporting adolescent mothers to complete their education had also been introduced by some member States. Some delegations noted the challenge of providing education for vulnerable populations, including the children of migrants, children with disabilities and children living in poverty. A delegation from a small island developing State reported that providing education services in remote islands was a development challenge.

17. Many delegations underscored the cross-cutting importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, both in terms of past progress in the implementation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, and for future achievements in population and development. Improving women's and girls' equal, equitable and rights-based access to, and participation in, health and education, employment and livelihood creation, public and political life, and decision-making was accorded high priority by several member States.

18. Diverse legislative, policy and institutional reforms in support of gender equality and women's empowerment were reviewed. A particular emphasis was placed by many member States, in terms of both past achievements and prevailing challenges, on ending all forms of violence against women and providing protection and services for survivors of violence, including gender-biased cultural practices and prenatal sex selection, rape and other forms of sexual violence, acid attacks, human trafficking, early marriage, domestic violence and workplace harassment.

19. Several delegations highlighted the importance of strengthening policies and services for families and older persons. That included providing family-friendly policies, such as expanding childcare and strengthening work-life balance. It also included placing priority on strengthening rights-based institutional and service frameworks that support older persons and prevent abuse and neglect. Several delegations emphasized policy challenges with respect to ageing societies and the need for attention to the quality of life of older persons and social protection.

20. Several delegations emphasized that their countries were undergoing demographic transition with a large young population. They highlighted the necessity of meeting the aspirations and needs of young people as a priority, with several delegations noting the importance of enhanced youth participation. A particular focus was placed on the challenges associated with job creation and employment opportunities for youth and their appropriate skill development and training. A few delegations highlighted the fact that young women were facing higher unemployment than young men and particular barriers in accessing employment.

21. Several member States expressed concern regarding continued high or increasing adolescent fertility rates, including unplanned pregnancies. Such an increase was, in one country, linked to an increase in early marriages.

22. Several delegations acknowledged the contribution of migrants to the societies and economies of countries of origin and of destination. One delegation from a country of destination noted its welcoming of refugees and their possibility of long-term integration as citizens of the country. Several delegations emphasized the need for social protection of migrant workers, including access to health and reproductive health services, and described measures that they had taken to provide protection to migrant workers.

23. Several delegations noted that significant rural-to-urban population movements constituted a challenge. Some delegations reported that their countries had addressed urbanization and internal migration in development strategies. One delegation also reported that its country had improved the registration of internal migrants, which had, in turn, improved their access to health and education.

24. The Conference emphasized the need for improved data and statistics on population issues as a key requirement for population planning. It was noted that statistics on population and health should be disaggregated by sex and, to the extent possible, internationally comparable.

25. The Conference expressed a commitment to international cooperation on matters related to population and development. Several delegations stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in implementing and monitoring population programmes. The Conference welcomed the description by the delegation of Japan of that country's Global Health Policy 2011-2015, through which it would contribute $5 billion in support of the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals.

B. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

26. The Conference had before it a working paper entitled "Draft Asian and Pacific ministerial declaration on population and development" [18] for its consideration. The senior officials decided to forward the document to the ministerial segment of the Conference for consideration and adoption by the ministers (see para. 62 below).

C. Adoption of the report of the senior officials

27. It was agreed that the report of the senior officials segment would be considered along with the report of the proceedings of the ministerial segment.

D. Review of forward-looking policies to address challenges in population and development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific

28. The Conference had before it the two documents identified in paragraph 1 above.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of the following ESCAP members and associate members: Afghanistan; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan;

[18] E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/WP.1 and Rev.1 and 2.

Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; United States of America; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

30. Statements were also made by representatives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and a representative from civil society reporting on the civil society forum on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, held in Bangkok on 12 and 13 September 2013.

31. The Conference reviewed achievements in the area of population and development over the preceding two decades and noted remaining challenges.

1. Poverty eradication and employment

32. The Conference recognized that the eradication of poverty and the attainment of high levels of employment were necessary for achieving other goals of social and economic development. The Conference noted the progress made in substantially reducing poverty rates and stressed the need for continued efforts in that area. Several countries reported that they were on track to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1 on poverty eradication.

33. Several delegations stressed the need to increase investments in social protection, including social security, social assistance, and accessible and affordable health care. Some delegations highlighted the role of social protection policies in building resilience among vulnerable and marginalized groups. One delegation acknowledged the need to develop more robust service delivery networks.

34. Many delegations emphasized the role of rural development and increased agricultural productivity in poverty reduction.

35. Several delegations recognized that creating productive employment opportunities was an essential strategy to reduce poverty. Many delegations emphasized the importance of youth employment initiatives and one delegation emphasized the importance of creating green jobs.

2. Health

36. Delegations described actions taken to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals and promote universal access to acceptable, affordable and high-quality health care. They noted that progress had been made in terms of addressing infant, child and maternal mortality and expanding health-care services. However, development gaps existed regarding the lack of skilled health-care personnel, rural-urban inequalities, malnourishment, poor sanitation and significant variations in life expectancy among ethnic groups. Some delegations reported increasing adolescent fertility, abortion rates and incidence of HIV among youth. Further challenges included addressing non-communicable diseases, mental health issues and high rates of neonatal mortality. Several delegations stressed commitments to achieving and promoting universal coverage of health care, with a priority of reaching marginalized groups, including internal migrants.

3. Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights

37. Delegations reported on initiatives to ensure access to essential sexual and reproductive health information, care and services. Many delegations reported major achievements on key indicators of sexual and reproductive health, such as maternal and child mortality and contraceptive prevalence rates, which they attributed to a significant expansion in sexual and reproductive health services.

38. Some delegations, however, reported persistently high maternal mortality. Similarly, some delegations reported a significant unmet need for family planning in their countries, particularly in rural areas, as well as decreasing contraceptive use, resulting in an increase in unplanned pregnancies, particularly among young people. In that context, countries announced that their priority policy focus would be further strengthening sexual and reproductive health services or revitalizing family planning programmes. Several delegations informed the Conference about their intentions to achieve universal access to reproductive health and to increase skilled birth attendance, particularly in rural areas. Some delegations expressed the view that prevailing harmful practices and traditional beliefs impeded access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services. Thus, their policy priority would be to work with community and religious leaders to improve access to such services.

4. Education

39. The Conference emphasized the fundamental importance of education for all in realizing population and development goals. Delegations reported significant progress in moving towards and achieving universal access to primary education. Progress was also noted in reducing school dropout rates and attaining higher levels of literacy and gender parity in enrolment. Several delegations, while acknowledging the need for educational systems to remain flexible and responsive to challenges, highlighted their countries' commitment to incorporating comprehensive sexuality education into curricula. The Conference noted, however, that challenges remained with regard to increasing access to higher levels of education and associated gender gaps.

5. Gender equality and women's empowerment

40. The Conference stressed that gender equality and women's empowerment were fundamental to social and economic development. Many delegations reported that their countries were committed to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are at the heart of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and essential for sustainable social and economic development. They indicated that gender equality and the empowerment of women could be achieved through the development and implementation of national policies, programmes and plans of action, as well as through constitutions, legislation, national budgetary allocations, national women's machineries and measures that address sociocultural obstacles. The necessity of applying normative commitments, pursuing evidence-based planning and ensuring gender-responsive budgeting were also highlighted as means of realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

41. Many delegations recognized gender-based violence, including sexual violence, domestic violence, and early and forced marriage, as a major challenge and a priority concern, given the negative impacts on the individual, family, community and entire society.

42. In their commitment to ending violence against women and girls, many delegations identified multisectoral measures for preventing and eliminating such violence, including awareness-raising campaigns to address sociocultural norms, comprehensive sexuality education, engaging men and boys, enforcing zero tolerance, and providing health and social services for survivors of violence, including safe houses. Several delegations informed the Conference of their progress in introducing legislation to criminalize violence against women and girls, such as family violence bills.

43. Some delegations observed that gender equality could not be achieved without addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights, and that improvements in the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls were a factor in gender equality gains in such areas as education, employment and social participation.

44. Several delegations stressed the importance of promoting the economic independence and the economic empowerment of women in realizing the goal of gender equality. To that end, many delegations recognized education as a prerequisite for increasing the presence of women in the workforce and as entrepreneurs.

45. Many delegations also shared their experience in adopting specific measures to increase women's labour force participation, including vocational training, maternity and parental leave, and childcare services.

46. The Conference underscored the significance of supporting and encouraging women to assume leadership and decision-making positions within both the public and private sectors. Delegations referred to a range of measures to improve women's participation in the political realm, including: (a) providing capacity-building and leadership training; (b) applying quotas or political reservation systems; (c) engaging women in peace negotiations; (d) fostering networks; and (e) enacting relevant legislation.

47. Some delegations stated that their countries recognized persons with different sexual orientations and gender identities and the associated need to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

48. In addressing gender inequalities and discrimination, several delegations stressed the necessity of respecting cultural, religious and traditional beliefs, values and customs, as well as existing national legislation.

6. Adolescents and youth

49. Many delegations stressed that it was essential for young people to be involved in and benefit from comprehensive policies on population and development, including those for sexual and reproductive health. Several delegations noted that, in recognition of the opportunity presented by the demographic dividend, there was a need to fulfil the aspirations of youth and ensure their full participation in the development process. In that regard, the growing influence of social media networks was highlighted as playing a significant role in increasing youth awareness and expectations. Delegations voiced concerns in relation to high levels of youth unemployment, especially among young women, exposure to vulnerable sector work, high rates of sexually transmitted infections and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services. Several delegations reported on progress in developing youth policies, programmes and interventions to promote youth as a strategic development priority, and stressed the need for collaboration with youth

organizations and the associated benefits of establishing peer networks among young people.

7. Ageing

50. Delegations reported on policy initiatives taken to respond to population ageing. The Conference recognized the changing demographic structures and the unprecedented pace of population ageing in the Asian and Pacific region. Many delegations emphasized that they were developing comprehensive national policies and strategies in preparation for an ageing society. Such policies were aimed at, among other objectives, providing an enabling environment for healthy and active ageing, as well as harnessing the potential of older persons so that they could continue to contribute to the socioeconomic development of society.

51. Many delegations emphasized the importance of upholding the dignity of older persons through, among other things, the provision of social protection and comprehensive and integrated health and social services, including long-term care for older persons. In that regard, they stressed the need to adapt health and social systems in response to the rising demand for elder care and support, with particular attention to the specific needs of older women.

8. Family

52. Underscoring the significance of the family as the foundation of society but also taking into account changes in family structure, many delegations stressed the need to integrate family concerns into national development planning. In that regard, one delegation informed the Conference of its national family policy, which included a provision for the expansion of family and marriage counselling services, as well as an initiative to grant tax exemptions to private companies organizing family activities during National Family Month. Some delegations shared their experiences in adopting specific social protection measures, such as cash transfers and food vouchers, to address the needs of families living in poverty and of female-headed households.

9. International migration

53. Some delegations noted that nationals living abroad contributed to development of their countries of origin through remittances. Some delegations from Pacific island countries noted that outmigration mitigated the effects of high fertility but, in some cases, also resulted in de-population of certain areas. Other delegations noted that their countries had become countries of destination for migrants. Several delegations recommended that future policy directions should include formulating migration policies that promote safe migration, protect the rights of migrants and respect fundamental human rights. Other delegations informed that their future policy focus would be encouraging the voluntary return of their nationals living abroad. Several delegations described steps that had been taken to curtail trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

10. Urbanization and internal migration

54. Several delegations recognized the challenges of rapid urbanization and the disparities between rural and urban development, and described measures to promote more balanced rural-urban development. Some delegations described policies to assist and provide services to migrants in urban areas, especially young migrants. Other delegations pointed out that high out-migration, particularly of young people, contributed to de-population of certain

areas. Thus, the policy focus in the future would be retaining young people through creation of domestic employment opportunities.

11. Population and sustainable development

55. The Conference recognized that population and sustainable development were inextricably linked and called for more comprehensive integration of population factors into sustainable development strategies. Several delegations recognized the social impact of climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Many delegations recognized the importance of sustainable management of resources and the importance of strengthening governance for disaster risk reduction and disaster response. One delegation emphasized the need to close the gap between economic and ecological initiatives.

12. Data and statistics

56. The Conference recognized that collection, compilation and dissemination of data on population factors were essential for social and economic policy formulation. Several delegations emphasized that further data collection was particularly required in rural areas. Other delegations emphasized the need to collect more detailed data and information on adolescent pregnancies in order to identify appropriate responses to increasing adolescent fertility rates.

13. Modalities for implementation at the national, regional and global levels

57. The Conference emphasized the need for national, regional and global mechanisms for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and for addressing the development agenda beyond 2015. In that context, many delegations emphasized that South-South cooperation would be a key modality for implementation. Many delegations requested technical as well as financial support from international organizations and through triangular cooperation as well as South-South cooperation, while several developed countries expressed their readiness to provide technical support to developing countries.

58. Several delegations also pointed out that active engagement with communities, civil society and parliamentarians was essential to the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

59. Some delegations also noted the need for strengthening multi- and bilateral frameworks for protecting the rights of migrants and ensuring orderly migration.

60. Some delegations from the Pacific subregion expressed the view that their survival was being threatened by climate change and that collective regional and global action was required to address that challenge.

E. Other matters

61. The delegation of Japan made a brief intervention to highlight the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women for accelerating implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development across all its thematic areas.

F. Adoption of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, including the Asia-Pacific regional input for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

62. The Conference had before it a working paper entitled "Draft Asian and Pacific declaration on population and development" (E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/WP.1/Rev.3) for its consideration.

63. The Russian Federation, speaking on its own behalf and on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, requested a recorded roll-call vote on the draft of the ministerial declaration in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission and the practice of the United Nations.

64. The recorded roll-call vote resulted in 38 "yes" votes, 3 "no" votes and 1 abstention. Two countries were not present during the voting (see annex II). After the voting, the Conference adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development by majority.

65. The following delegations delivered statements before and after the vote in explanation of their vote and/or expressed reservations on certain elements contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration (in the order in which they spoke): Azerbaijan; Afghanistan; Maldives; Pakistan; Indonesia; Malaysia; Bhutan; Bangladesh; Russian Federation; Iran (Islamic Republic of); India; United States of America; China; Australia; Philippines; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Tuvalu; Sri Lanka; Fiji; and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex III). Nepal submitted a written statement in explanation of vote after the Conference.

G. Adoption of the report of the Conference

66. The report of the Conference was adopted by consensus on 20 September 2013.

H. Closing of the Conference

67. Closing statements were made by Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati and Chair of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, and Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

III. Organization

A. Objectives

68. The objectives of the Conference were as follows: (a) to review population and development trends in the Asian and Pacific region; (b) to review progress in the regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; (c) to serve as the intergovernmental platform for considering and adopting the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, which would also serve as the regional input for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

B. Attendance

69. The Conference was attended by the following ESCAP members: Afghanistan; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; France; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Viet Nam.

70. ESCAP associate members: Cook Islands and Niue.

71. United Nations Secretariat: Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

72. United Nations bodies: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

73. Specialized agencies and related organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO).

74. Intergovernmental organizations: International Organization for Migration (IOM); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

75. Non-governmental organizations: Aahung; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD); Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW); Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); HelpAge International; International Center for Research on Women (ICRW); International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP); International HIV/AIDS Alliance; International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South East Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF ESEAOR); International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Region (IPPF SARO); International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC); International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific); Ipas; Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre; Saviya Development Foundation (SDF).

76. Other entities: Aliansi Remaja Independen (ARI); Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA); Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+); Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP); Asian Population Association (APA); Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); China Youth Network (CYN); Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7 Sisters); Fenomena; Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM); Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA); International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC); Marie Stopes International (MSI) Australia; Komnas Perempuan; Migrant Assistance Program (MAP Foundation); National Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Myanmar; Pacific Youth Council; Partners in Population and Development (PPD); Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT); Population

Foundation of India (PFI); Real People Real Vision (RPRV); Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ); Rutgers WPF; SAHAYOG; Saviya Women's Organizations; South Asian Regional Youth Network; The YP Foundation (TYPF); Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV); University of Health Sciences; Women Deliver, Inc.; Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) Nepal; Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Sri Lanka; Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR); Youth Lead; Youth Parliament of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB); Youth Theatre Light; Y-PEER International Network Nepal; Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA).

77. In addition, two members of the High-level Task Force for ICPD participated as observers.

C. Senior officials segment

1. Opening and duration

78. The senior officials segment of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was convened by ESCAP, in cooperation with UNFPA, in Bangkok, from 16 to 18 September 2013.

79. The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. Pradit Sintavanarong, Minister of Public Health of Thailand, who delivered a statement.

80. Statements were also made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Executive Director of UNFPA. Students from the International School of Bangkok gave a performance on the voices of young people and three young women representing the Regional Youth Forum delivered a joint statement at the Conference.

2. Election of officers

81. The Conference elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Keshav Desiraju (India)
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Janette Garin (Philippines)
Rapporteur:	Dr. Tenneth Dalipanda (Solomon Islands)

3. Agenda

82. The senior officials adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
   - (a) Opening statements;
   - (b) Election of officers;
   - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the progress and remaining challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific and proposed thematic priorities for the development agenda beyond 2015.

3. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

4. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

4. Side events

83. The following special events were held:

(a) A special session was organized by the Regional Coordination Mechanism – United Nations Development Group (RCM-UNDG) Asia-Pacific Thematic Working Group on Youth on 18 September 2013 on the theme "Young people's access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services: what's law got to do with it";

(b) A luncheon side event on ending violence against women and girls was also held on 18 September 2013. It was organized by the Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

D. Ministerial segment

1. Opening and duration

84. The ministerial segment of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was convened in Bangkok on 19 and 20 September 2013. The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. Phongthep Thepkanjana, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

85. Statements were also made by: Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati; the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP; the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA; and the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. Election of officers

86. Conference elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Anote Tong (Kiribati)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Ahmad Jan Naeem (Afghanistan)
Mr. Hukum Khan Habibi (Afghanistan)
Ms. Sayeda Mostafavi (Afghanistan)
Ms. Meher Afroze (Bangladesh)
Ms. Bin Li (China)
Mr. Nandi Tuaine Glassie (Cook Islands)
Ms. Jiko Luveni (Fiji)
Mr. Kenya Akiba (Japan)
Ms. Toshiko Abe (Japan)
Mr. Somchit Inthamith (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Datuk Hjh. Azizah Datuk Seri Panglima Hj. Mohd. Dun (Malaysia)
Mr. Abdulla Jihad (Maldives)
Mr. Erdene Sodnomzundui (Mongolia)
Mr. Amarsanaa Jazag (Mongolia)
Mr. Vidyadhar Mallik (Nepal)
Ms. Joan Sisiati Tahafa Viliamu (Niue)

Ms. Zakia Shah Nawaz (Pakistan)
Mr. Sergio Gama Da Costa Lobo (Timor-Leste)
Mr. Rialuth Serge Vohor (Vanuatu)
Mr. Tien Nguyen Viet (Viet Nam)

Rapporteur: Dr. Fasli Jalal (Indonesia)

3. Agenda

87. The ministers endorsed the agenda adopted by the senior officials (see para. 82 above) and adopted the following agenda for the ministerial segment:

5. Opening of the ministerial segment:
   (a) Opening addresses;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.
6. Review of forward-looking policies to address challenges in population and development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development, including the Asia-Pacific regional input for the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.
9. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
10. Closing of the Conference.

E. Special events

88. A high-level panel on civil registration and vital statistics entitled "Know your population" was organized by ESCAP and held on 20 September 2013. It was moderated by Ms. Thin Lei Win. The following served as panellists: Ms. Jiko Luveni, Minister of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji; and Dr. Fasli Jalal, Head of the National Population and Family Planning Board, Indonesia.

Annex I

List of documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
General series		
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/1	Review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementing, in the Asia-Pacific region, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	2
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/2	Consideration of proposed thematic priorities in population and development in the development agenda beyond 2015	2
Limited series		
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/L.1	Provisional agenda	
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/L.3	Draft report of the Conference	
Information series		
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/INF/2 and Rev.1-2	List of participants	
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/INF/3	Tentative programme	
Conference room papers		
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/CRP.1	Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and the Pacific: the unfinished agenda	2
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/CRP.2 and Rev.1	Population and Social Integration Policies in Asia and the Pacific	2
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/CRP.3	Population dynamics and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2
Working papers		
E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/WP.1 and Rev.1-3	Draft Asian and Pacific ministerial declaration on population and development	3

Annex II

Record of voting

No.	Country	Yes	No	Abstained	Not present
1	Afghanistan			X	
2	Australia	X			
3	Azerbaijan		X		
4	Bangladesh	X			
5	Bhutan	X			
6	Cambodia	X			
7	China	X			
8	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	X			
9	Fiji	X			
10	France	X			
11	India	X			
12	Indonesia	X			
13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		X		
14	Japan	X			
15	Kazakhstan				X
16	Kiribati	X			
17	Lao People's Democratic Republic	X			
18	Malaysia	X			
19	Maldives	X			
20	Marshall Islands	X			
21	Micronesia (Federated States of)	X			
22	Mongolia	X			
23	Myanmar	X			
24	Nauru	X			
25	Nepal	X			
26	Netherlands	X			
27	New Zealand	X			
28	Pakistan	X			
29	Papua New Guinea	X			
30	Philippines	X			
31	Republic of Korea	X			
32	Russian Federation		X		
33	Samoa	X			
34	Solomon Islands	X			
35	Sri Lanka	X			
36	Thailand	X			
37	Timor-Leste	X			
38	Tonga	X			
39	Tuvalu	X			
40	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	X			
41	United States of America	X			
42	Uzbekistan				X
43	Vanuatu	X			
44	Viet Nam	X			
Total		**38**	**3**	**1**	**2**

Annex III

Statements made in explanation of vote and reservations expressed

A. Statement by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran requesting a recorded vote

The delegations of the Russian Federation and Islamic Republic of Iran have thoroughly studied the draft ministerial declaration on population and development, submitted by the Chair of the senior officials segment for adoption by the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (referring to E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/WP.1/Rev.3).

Once again, we reiterate our appreciation to the Chair, as well as to the joint secretariat for all their hard work on the preparation of this document as well as for all their efforts to ensure consensus during negotiations. We also thank those delegations that have shown a constructive approach, flexibility and eagerness to compromise in order to elaborate a consensus draft declaration.

The Russian and Iranian delegations, in turn, have made maximum efforts to achieve consensus on most arguable provisions during the plenary session, bilateral contacts and in other established formats. Unfortunately, our efforts have been in vain and no significant result has been achieved.

In these circumstances, we have no other option but to point out once again that a significant number of provisions of the draft declaration do not take into account our concerns on the issues that are of the utmost importance for the Governments of our countries. The document contains a series of notions that are totally unacceptable to the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and therefore we are not in a position to support its adoption.

In view of the above, we have been instructed by our Governments to request a recorded roll-call vote on the draft declaration in accordance with the rules of procedure of ESCAP and practice of the United Nations.

B. Oral statements in explanation of vote and reservations expressed (in order of delivery)

Azerbaijan

The delegation of Azerbaijan shares the view expressed by the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran in expressing a lack of agreement on a number of points in the draft declaration. The draft declaration in its current form is not acceptable to the delegation of Azerbaijan, as it does not conform to our current legislation, and includes many wordings and references to sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual rights. Azerbaijan thus considers that due to these points, we could not adopt the draft declaration.

Afghanistan

Let me express, on behalf of my delegation, the official position of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the outcome document of the Conference. My country is a State party to most international conventions, particularly those on human rights. Afghanistan remains committed to the promotion and

protection of human rights. For this reason, we have been actively involved in the negotiation of the outcome document in both the senior officials and ministerial segments. However, the concerns of my delegation have not been considered in the outcome document, i.e. sexual orientation, gender identity and abortion. We want to underscore the importance of respect for religion, culture and national laws.

Maldives

Maldives would like to congratulate and thank the member countries for their hard work over the last few days.

Maldives in general, agrees with the draft declaration. However, we would like to offer that the following paragraphs of the declaration will be interpreted by Maldives in accordance with national laws and regulations: 8, 25, 26, 75, 76, 80, 84, 116 and 124.

Pakistan

Pakistan supports the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, particularly issues related to poverty eradication and employment, health, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, ageing, international migration, urbanization and internal migration, as well as population and sustainable development. Nevertheless, Pakistan does not support the proposals and paragraphs contained in the draft declaration regarding sexual orientation, specifically in paragraphs 8 and 84 of the document. Pakistan requests that its reservation be duly reflected in the final version of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

Indonesia

The Indonesian delegation would like to convey its appreciation to the Chair for his leadership in the adoption of this draft declaration. The delegation would also like to convey the cooperative spirit of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and its full support for the implementation of the declaration in line with its national priorities.

Recalling the agreed language of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Indonesia would like to once again reaffirm its position that the declaration should, without any hesitation, use the agreed language that has been adopted within the United Nations, in particular within the framework of the International Conference on Population and Development. For example, the declaration should employ the exact wording "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights", as has been agreed upon in the outcome documents of the regular sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.

Indonesia is also of the view that youth is a crucial and valuable asset for the development of the nation within the global community. Indonesia intends to work to overcome differences among member States on various issues that may distract their efforts to implement national domestic laws and development programmes in accordance with their priorities, particularly on the issues of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and adolescents and young people as addressed in the outcome document of this Conference.

We would like to reaffirm our support to the prospect to empower youth in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

Indonesia once again emphasizes that the text of the declaration must be consistent with the agreed language of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that its content in its entirety must not go beyond what has been mandated by the Programme of Action.

In this regard, Indonesia considers that the words "sexual and reproductive health (and rights)" must be understood as "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights", in order to be consistent with what was agreed in the Programme of Action and the outcome documents of the Commission on Population and Development.

Furthermore, Indonesia expresses strong objection to the insertion of the words "sexual orientation and gender identity" reflected in any part of the declaration in its entirety.

In detail, Indonesia's reservations to the adopted declaration are as follows:

(a) In "Contents", section III, heading C, should be replaced with "Sexual and reproductive health, services and reproductive rights";

(b) Paragraph 8 should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 26, "sexual and reproductive health and rights" should be replaced with "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights";

(d) In paragraph 76, "Recognize that sexual and reproductive rights" should be replaced with "Recognize that reproductive rights embrace certain";

(e) In paragraph 80, second line, "including their sexual and reproductive rights" should be replaced with "including their reproductive rights";

(f) In paragraph 84, third line, "status and sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status" should be replaced with "status, or other status";

(g) Under "Priority actions", heading C should read "Sexual and reproductive health and services and reproductive rights";

(h) In paragraph 145, first line, "Respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of" should be replaced with "Respect the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of".

Malaysia

We wish to express our serious reservations about the new terms introduced throughout the draft declaration, such as "consensual adult sexual behaviours and relationships", "sexual and reproductive health and rights", as well as "sexual orientation and gender identity", which are not consistent with the language agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development. We are concerned that the new terms could give the impression that new rights have been created, and it will create misunderstanding and confusion, which will hinder the successful formulation of policies as well as the effective implementation of the relevant programmes and activities on the ground.

We are also concerned that the new terms could give the impression that religious, ethical values and cultural aspects are no longer important in the overall development of our society, particularly in the context of the family, relationships and sexuality, which is contrary to the terms and spirit of the International Conference on Population and Development.

As a country that has hosted a large number of migrants, Malaysia attaches great importance to the issue of migration and development. We wish to reaffirm that this issue should be addressed through a comprehensive and balanced approach. As such, we note that the draft declaration contains a reference to the need to examine the root causes of undocumented migration, as well as an emphasis on the need to promote cooperation so as to foster orderly, regular and safe passage of migrants as well as the cooperation to address the issue of trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

We wish to reaffirm our position on the right of every nation State to decide who can enter and stay on its territory and under what conditions, as stipulated in paragraph 10.15 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. We also wish to state that it is our understanding that nothing in the draft declaration shall be interpreted as legitimizing the illegal entry of any person into any State, nor would it be interpreted as restricting the State when promulgating laws and regulations concerning entry into its territory and the eventual terms and conditions of any stay, or to when establishing differences in treatment between nationals and non-nationals.

We would have preferred a more balanced text that takes into account all the views and concerns of all parties. However, we realize that it is crucial for the Asia-Pacific region to come up with a document that would serve as an important input to the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. In a spirit of constructive cooperation and moving forward, our delegation therefore supports the draft declaration.

Bhutan

In a spirit of moving forward, in principle we support the adoption of the draft declaration. However, we would like to request the Chair to place on record the following:

(a) We would like to reserve comment on any references to sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual rights in the declaration;

(b) With reference to the recommendations under heading H of section III ("International migration", "Priority actions"), in the interest of making the commitments more pragmatic, we would like to interpret as follows:

(i) In paragraph 170, "Provide access" will be interpreted as "Facilitate";

(ii) In paragraph 171, "Adopt and implement" will be interpreted as "Urge the implementation of";

(iii) In paragraph 177, "Ensure" will be interpreted as "Promote".

Bangladesh

I am taking the floor to explain the position taken by Bangladesh on the voting on the draft declaration.

Throughout the week, the delegation of Bangladesh has constructively engaged with other delegations to arrive at objective, realistic and balanced text in the declaration. We had hoped to reach consensus on the text, which would provide a tangible and implementable road map and which is in consonance with the aspirations and realities of our countries.

I would like to reiterate that Bangladesh is deeply committed to the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and has continuously strived to attain those goals and objectives in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

However, we note that the declaration before us falls short of our expectations. It contains references to concepts such as "sexual orientation and gender identity" and "sexual rights", which Bangladesh does not subscribe to nationally; neither is there a consensus on these regionally or globally. Hence, they are not acceptable to us.

Bangladesh does not wish to stand in the way of the adoption of the declaration, but would like to express its reservations specifically on paragraphs 8 and 84 of the declaration and to all such relevant parts of the declaration which contain references to the concepts mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

I would request that our reservation be recorded as such and reflected in the relevant documents and report of the Conference.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation voted against the adoption of the draft declaration, because the document, in its current state, is not acceptable for our delegation for a number of reasons.

The Russian Federation reaffirms its commitments to the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and stresses the inadmissibility of violating General Assembly resolution 65/234, operative paragraph 4 of which states that the agreements contained in the Programme of Action will not be renegotiated.

However, the text of the declaration still contains formulations and numerous references to "sexual orientation", "gender identity" and "sexual rights".

At respective multilateral forums and United Nations conferences, including the current one, the Russian representatives have repeatedly stated that these terms have not been formalized in any internationally agreed official document. I would repeat — our primary argument against insertion of these formulations is the absence of any explicit definition or provision relating to such notions in international human rights law. Likewise, fundamental international human rights agreements lack separate norms regulating protection of persons in line with their sexual orientation or so-called "gender identity".

The Russian Federation has repeatedly stated that it condemns any form or manifestation of discrimination on any grounds. We proceed from the assumption that a ban on discrimination in international legal acts on human rights is all-embracing and relates to all people without exception. These norms are more than enough. All States should thoroughly observe them.

In order to make the text more acceptable for all delegations the Russian Federation has proposed, during negotiations, a number of agreed formulations, taken from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. However, our proposals were turned down.

Apart from the terminology, stipulated above, we also cannot go along with the provisions of the document related to the promotion of policies aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among sex workers, persons who inject drugs, men having sex with men, and transgender people, which would in turn qualify them as an exceptionally "vulnerable group".

Finally, the Russian delegation is not in a position to accept those paragraphs that mention comprehensive sexuality education. We have said several times, and would repeat it again, that such education should be considered only with due regard to the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents. Unfortunately, the current document does not contain such a message.

Therefore, the Russian Federation voted against the whole text of the draft declaration. Taking into account the results of the vote, the adopted declaration cannot be considered as consensual and we do not consider ourselves bound by its provisions.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains fully committed to ensuring the highest attainable standards of health, education and well-being of its people. We reiterate our commitment to address all emerging challenges with innovative and pragmatic practices that ensure full and accessible services for all without discrimination. Iran also reaffirms its commitments to the provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. With such conviction, we have joined and supported the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 global, regional and national review processes.

As regards that process, Iran would like to reiterate that operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, and operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 67/250 on the organization of the special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 are both crystal clear in reaffirming that the process will be "undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein".

It is our understanding that fulfilment of the mandate established by the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions has been and continues to be the ultimate goal of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review process.

It is, however, very unfortunate that the Chair's text before us contains provisions that amount to reopening and reformulating the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in a way that dilutes its balance and undermines the mandate of the General

Assembly. The Chair's text not only goes beyond the mandate given by the General Assembly resolutions, it also overlooks the terms of ESCAP resolution 68/6. In fact, divergence of the Chair's text from the critical population and development issues recognized in operative paragraph 2 of the ESCAP resolution is obvious.

In the course of negotiations held during the expert meeting held in May and the senior officials segment, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran showed substantive flexibility in trying to accommodate the concerns raised by different delegations. We undertook this practice in good faith and with a view to reaching consensus. Regrettably, the present Chair's text falls significantly short of the expected balance and fairness concerning the diverse positions expressed during the negotiations.

Among others, we would like to express our dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Chair's text against the contribution of religion and culture. Unlike what is implied in the text, we truly believe that religion and culture are, and shall be, a major part of the solution rather than the problem. Our national experience explicitly confirms this conviction.

We would also like to point out that, according to paragraph 1.15 of the Programme of Action, the International Conference on Population and Development did not create any new international human rights. Therefore, our international commitments will continue to be defined and confined by the covenants and instruments to which we have subscribed.

Procedurally speaking, we also register our dissatisfaction with the process of negotiation itself. It overtly disregarded established United Nations procedural practices and standards. This is a reason why the Chair's text is unable to reflect a balanced and fair account of the discussions and positions. The Chair's text is regrettably a lost opportunity to build consensus around such a critical issue as population and to make a better and more prosperous future for our people, especially for those in the most vulnerable situations.

On these notes, my delegation joined with the delegation of the Russian Federation in asking for a recorded vote on the text, and voted against it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran requests its statement to be fully recorded and reflected in the report of the Conference to be issued as an official ESCAP document.

India

Over the last five days, in the ministerial segment under the Chair's able guidance, as well as during the senior officials segment, all member States present here have engaged in an intense and useful discussion on our common challenges. The ideals and cooperative spirit of Cairo have served as our guiding light. My delegation is heartened and inspired by the desire of all to make the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development even more relevant for our people, youth and future generations. We believe that Chair of the senior officials segment, taking into account the extensive discussion among member States, and with the support extended by the joint secretariat of ESCAP and UNFPA, has produced a text that reflects this genuine desire to move forward. As far as my delegation is concerned, this document may not be perfect since it does not fully reflect our own views, but we do believe that it is forward-looking, based on a participatory approach, and is what our people expect of us. My delegation therefore has lent its support to adoption of this document as a whole.

I am reminded of a similar, transformative, people-centric and people-driven event that took place last year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Over 100 world leaders and more than 40,000 delegates from all across the world assembled in Rio de Janeiro to express a firm political commitment of the highest order to the agenda for our common future – the future we want. The leaders reaffirmed the vital role of women, and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development. They committed themselves to promoting the equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, economic opportunities and health care services. They reiterated that the United Nations system works for promoting and achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in all aspects of life. They resolved to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development, equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation.

Our leaders reaffirmed all the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with regard to sustainable development. Our region comprises a number of small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing States. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development fully recognized their special case in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

All these are fundamentally important themes that needed to be forcefully reflected and reiterated in the outcome document that we considered today. Looking at this historic opportunity, let me convey our firm conviction that this document should have reaffirmed the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to take into cognizance the commitments and the political will expressed by the world leaders, civil society, private sector, indeed all stakeholders, who assembled at Rio to support the task we have at hand today. We would therefore have preferred the word "Reaffirming" in place of "Welcoming" in paragraph 6, but have noted the comprehensive support of the Conference on this issue. The Indian delegation requests that its views be recorded in the report of the Conference.

United States of America

The Government of the United States thanks the ESCAP secretariat for their work to bring member States to consensus on this expansive outcome document negotiated during the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. This document provides a comprehensive assessment of progress made in meeting the goals laid out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and provides a useful road map for continued progress in the region, including by identifying areas of accomplishment as well as those where our efforts have fallen short.

We join consensus with the express understanding that it does not imply that States must become parties to instruments to which they are not a party or implement obligations under human rights instruments to which they are not a party. Furthermore, to the extent that it is implied in this declaration, the United States does not recognize the creation of any rights or principles that we have not previously recognized the expansion of the content or coverage of existing rights or principles, or any other change in the current state of treaty or customary international law. Furthermore, we understand the declaration's reaffirmation of prior documents to apply to those who affirmed them initially.

We understand a "human rights-based approach" to mean an approach anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international human rights law.

We interpret this outcome document in light of well-known positions of the United States on the topic of the right to development and on economic, social, and cultural rights, including those related to food, education, and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. We interpret this document's references to the right to food, education, and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, in light of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with respect to States parties to that instrument.

While the United States is committed to finding ways we can work together constructively to make the issue of the "right to development" a uniting, rather than divisive, issue, our position on this is well known, and we are disappointed with the effort to inappropriately single out this one issue throughout this document. As we have repeatedly stated, theoretical work is needed to define the right to development; discussion of the right to development needs to focus on aspects of development that relate to human rights, universal rights that are held and enjoyed by individuals, and which every individual may demand from his or her own Government.

As the United States stated for the record at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United States understands and accepts that principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development highlights the special leadership role of developed countries, based on their industrial development, experience with environmental protection policies and actions, and wealth, technical expertise and capabilities. The United States does not accept any interpretation of principle 7 that would imply a recognition or acceptance by the United States of any international obligations or liabilities, or any diminution of the responsibilities of developing countries under international law.

The United States does not believe it is constructive to attempt to delineate the scope and appropriate application of a potentially contentious concept like "common but differentiated responsibilities" in a regional forum such as this. In this regard, the United States does not join consensus on this language.

Regarding paragraph 104, we emphasize that there are many ways toward the realization of universal health coverage as a goal to advance equality of access and quality health services for all our populations, and that achieving and sustaining this coverage is primarily the responsibility of national Governments.

Concerning paragraph 68, the United States expresses its concern that the text appears to focus excessively on the need for additional external resource flows, including official development assistance, in making progress toward the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development. This is out of step with the discussions on financing for development which began at Monterrey and continued in Doha. Those documents clearly state that countries have primary responsibility for their own development, reflecting the declining relative share of official development assistance as a resource for development, and the importance of effective domestic resource mobilization.

The United States remains focused on the eradication of extreme poverty and will continue to support efforts toward that end. With reference to paragraphs 89 and 90, however, the United States does not support any interpretation of that language inconsistent with a coherent approach that integrates in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental pillars

of sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

As a point of clarification, the United States fully endorses and supports reproductive rights, and we look forward to an opportunity to work with United Nations Member States in a global forum to come to agreement on the term "sexual rights". While my country strongly supports the right of every individual to have control over and make free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, according to their gender identity and sexual orientation, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and to have the means and information to do so, including through access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, we cannot endorse the term "sexual rights" until there is international consensus on its full meaning.

Moreover, we do not interpret the clauses within this outcome document related to "sexual and reproductive health and rights" to mean anything beyond the International Conference on Population and Development and its review conferences; nor do we interpret this document to create any new rights in the field of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Regarding paragraph 29 of the declaration, the United States has joined other countries in supporting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and we note that countries have a wide array of policies and actions that may be appropriate in promoting the progressive realization of the right. Therefore, we think that the declaration should not try to define the content of the right.

We are concerned with the call to ensure that the international environment supports national development efforts around universal, non-discriminatory access to medicines, vaccines, commodities, equipment, technologies and other supplies, when the predominant issues relate to national-level actions. While the United States clearly supports greater access to medicines, particularly to essential medicines, this is a multifaceted and complex issue. There can be multiple reasons why medicines are less widely available than they should be, such as inappropriate tax and tariff policies, weak health systems, or lack of essential medicines procurement systems in place to support health delivery, services, and access, all barriers best addressed through domestic action.

The United States recognizes that States must respect the human rights of migrants, consistent with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law. The United States fulfils these obligations by providing substantial protection under the United States Constitution and other domestic laws to aliens within the territory of the United States, regardless of their immigration status. The United States takes this responsibility very seriously and urges other States to do so as well. The declaration as constructed limits the topics for discussion for international cooperation. There are many more human rights issues that should be discussed through international dialogue, such as legal and physical protection. The United States remains supportive of paragraph 38 of Commission on Population and Development resolution 2013/1, adopted at the forty-sixth session of the Commission, which encourages the discussion of a broad array of issues pertaining to the human rights of migrants and migration management and thus does not limit the discussion.

Further, the United States remains committed to working with our partners around the world to address climate change. It is important for all

countries to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as well as take measures to build resilience to climate impacts. In this regard, we have supported discussions on these incredibly complex issues including in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Security Council, and continue to support UNFCCC decisions 1/CP.16 and 3/CP.18, in which climate-induced displacement and migration is addressed. The language in this document does not reflect those agreements, and we stress that the text before us today does not prejudge, renegotiate, or replace discussions in other forums that seek to examine and address these issues.

Nineteen years on, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is still a relevant and vital guidance document that assists Governments, international organizations, civil society actors and all stakeholders in their efforts to meet sexual and reproductive health needs and to promote reproductive rights for women, men, adolescents, and young people. The regional commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development is as strong, if not stronger, than it was in 1994, when 179 countries agreed to the Programme of Action in Cairo.

My Government wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the ESCAP secretariat and all ESCAP member States for their excellent spirit of cooperation in working together to accomplish this important reaffirmation of regional commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development.

China

The Chinese delegation appreciates the great efforts of all the delegations and the secretariat during the past five days in discussions on the outcome document of the Conference.

The Chinese delegation believes that the Conference has conducted thorough discussions over a long time and reached consensus on most parts of the outcome document. The declaration basically reflects the concerns of all parties. However, we also noticed that a few expressions in the declaration differ from recognized United Nations official expressions, resulting in the declaration being adopted not through consensus. This is not what we had hoped to see. Nevertheless, in the spirit of cooperation and moving forward, the Chinese delegation voted in favour of the declaration.

Australia

Australia is proud to have joined the overwhelming support for this historic declaration. We have made real progress on issues of fundamental importance to the needs of the most vulnerable. The declaration represents the voice of so many in our region in committing to protect all of our citizens from discrimination and violence, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and recognizing their reproductive and sexual rights. As we raised earlier this week, we have some reservations about the language used in the climate change section of the declaration, particularly the use of the term "to halt global carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions". In this regard, we note it is not physically possible, nor scientifically desirable, to halt emissions altogether.

We acknowledge that the movement of people due to environmental change is something that is presently garnering significant focus on the international stage; however, currently, an evidence base does not exist on which to assess the international migration implications of this type of

migration. Australia, as a member of the Steering Group for the Nansen Initiative, is keenly engaged in a process to develop such an evidence base. Nevertheless, without clearer evidence on how States plan to support each other, or are supporting each other, we cannot agree to support language that requires us to facilitate the migration of people under these circumstances.

Philippines

The Republic of the Philippines expresses support for the document that expresses the forward-looking aspirations of the Asian and Pacific peoples.

This delegation, however, expresses its reservation to paragraph 46, which appears to be lifted from the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development but, in reality, has been intentionally shortened, apparently to create confusion in the understanding of the guiding principles contained in the Programme of Action because it does not include the phrase "and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights".

The production of a strong outcome document as a regional input to the global review process cannot be underestimated. However, a long, hard fought battle in the provision of reproductive health services among our people should be given equal importance. While our Government respects religious values, this should, in no way, hinder the provision of a better quality of life and hold our people hostage to some beliefs crafted during the Stone Age, forcing our countries to go backward, instead of moving forward.

Our delegation has reservations on paragraph 118. The insertion of the phrase "where it is not against the law" after comprehensive abortion care makes the provision of health care highly selective. While we agree that induced abortion is definitely not a family planning method, our delegation gives strong emphasis to our obligation to save women's lives.

No woman should die giving life. Also, no woman should die simply because she made the wrong judgment about undergoing induced abortion, hence depriving her of proper health care.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Government of the United Kingdom thanks the ESCAP secretariat for their work to help member States reach consensus on the outcome document negotiated during the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. This document provides a comprehensive assessment of progress made in meeting the goals laid out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and provides a useful road map for continued progress in the region. However, during the Conference, the United Kingdom expressed its reservations to the text put forward in paragraph 197 and we welcome this opportunity to explain our position.

The United Kingdom remains committed to addressing climate change. In particular we are committed to delivering, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a new legally binding agreement applicable to all countries by 2015 to achieve the internationally agreed goal of limiting global temperature increases to 2°C above pre-industrial levels and for it to come into force by 2020. It is important for all countries to take ambitious action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as well as take measures to build resilience to climate impacts.

The issue of climate change-induced displacement, migration and planned relocation is extremely complex. In this regard, we have supported discussions in the UNFCCC, the Security Council, and continue to support UNFCCC decisions 1/CP.16 and 3/CP.18, in which enhancing understanding, learning, coordination and cooperation are primary. We are concerned that the language proposed in this document does not properly reflect those existing global discussions and agreements.

Given those global agreements highlighting the need for enhancing understanding, we are therefore concerned that the language in paragraph 197 risks both failing to engage the expertise contained in relevant international bodies and prejudging discussions in such relevant forums.

Finally, we are concerned that the wording contained in paragraph 197 could be read to imply that migration is not an adaptive response to climate impacts but an alternative to adaptation. Whilst we recognize that many adaptive responses, including transboundary migration and planned relocation, often are not the preferred course of action for many people, communities or populations, we also believe that they are part of a spectrum of adaptation options facing those people who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

As such we are compelled to recognize that the text in paragraph 197 does not prejudge, renegotiate, or replace discussions in other forums that seek to examine and address these issues.

Tuvalu

Mr. President, I thank you for your leadership in this process and my delegation would like to register our utmost appreciation to ESCAP and UNFPA and to member States who voted in favour of the document. Mr. President, we have turned a new page in our efforts to address key population issues that are relevant to our setting in this changing world. We are indeed addressing human issues that are inclusive in nature, upholding the human rights of every individual in this region. My delegation is committed to a forward-looking agenda for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and to its inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda and fully endorses the document in its entirety. Mr. President, in your words "Te mauri, te raoi ao te tabomoa" ("Health, peace and prosperity").

Sri Lanka

In the context of deep-rooted Sri Lankan culture and the existing law, the delegation of Sri Lanka is of the strong belief that paragraphs 111 and 118 (under heading C, "Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights") and paragraphs 145 and 146 (under heading F, "Adolescents and young people") are not in conformity. Therefore, the delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to flag its reservations to the aforementioned paragraphs.

Fiji

The delegation of Fiji wishes to align itself with the expression of gratitude conveyed by other delegations to His Excellency for his able chairmanship in bringing this Conference to a conclusion with overwhelming support for the draft document. We would like to thank the ESCAP secretariat for their excellent support. Prior to the Conference, Pacific leaders met and discussed the way forward for their region on population and development

beyond 2015. The outcome document captures the priority areas that are articulated in the Moana Declaration and we thank you for the adopted draft document.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its reservation to paragraphs 8 and 84 of the declaration regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

C. Written statements submitted in explanation of vote

Nepal

The Government of Nepal is firmly committed to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and supports all global and regional efforts for its effective implementation. Moreover, Nepal also stands firmly for the language and commitment already agreed in the Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development and the General Assembly, and other relevant human rights documents in relation to women's empowerment and gender equality. The Government of Nepal accords high priority to sexual and reproductive health and rights as an integral part of national health plans, programmes and public budgets. In line with this, Nepal supports all recognition, affirmation and action pertaining to sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout the outcome document, including the recognition of sexual orientation and gender identity.

While recognizing cultural sensitivities, Nepal commits to ensure that sociocultural practices that are harmful and have serious health ramifications do not impede free access to and utilization of health services, including sexual and reproductive health services. Therefore, Nepal reaffirms the expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health information and education and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services as well as enactment of laws as appropriate for the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights.

In line with the above reaffirmation, the Government of Nepal voted for the full adoption of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.